

IN THE CLAIMS

Presented below is a complete list of claims with changes marked up:

1. Canceled.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~1-61~~1, further comprising
converting the digital media file into analog electrical data; and
manipulating the transfer of both the digital ~~audio data~~media file and the analog electrical data using a user interface on the client, ~~wherein the client includes an audio converter device.~~
3. Canceled.
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~3-2~~2, further comprising manipulating the transfer of both the digital ~~audio data~~media file and the analog electrical data using a user interface on the ~~home PC~~client converter device.
5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~3-2~~2, further comprising manipulating the transfer of both the digital ~~audio data~~media file and the analog electrical data using a portable electronic device.
6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the portable electronic device is a personal digital assistant.
7. Canceled.

8. Canceled.

9. Canceled.

10. Canceled.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~1-61~~, wherein ~~downloading~~ receiving the digital ~~audio data~~ media file from the network includes receiving the digital ~~audio data~~ media file using a wireless transceiver via wireless transfer protocol.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the wireless transfer protocol is IEEE 802.11b.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the client converter device is a portable electronic device including a wireless local area network adapter.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the portable electronic device is a personal digital assistant.

15-33. Canceled.

34. (Currently Amended) The ~~audio~~-converter device of claim ~~33-70~~, further comprising a user interface ~~on the computer system~~ to allow users to manipulate the transfer of both the

digital ~~audio data~~media file and the ~~analog electrical data~~converted portion of the digital media file.

35. Canceled.

36. (Currently Amended) The ~~audio-converter~~ device of claim ~~33-70~~, further comprising a portable electronic device to allow users to manipulate the transfer of both the digital audio datamedia file and the ~~analog electrical data~~converted portion of the digital media file.

37. (Original) The audio converter device of claim 36 wherein the portable electronic device is a personal digital assistant.

38. (Currently Amended) The ~~audio-converter~~ device of claim ~~33-70~~, further comprising a display to present data associated with the digital media file received from the local server.

39. (Currently Amended) The ~~audio-converter~~ device of claim ~~33-70~~, further comprising an infrared receiver to receive instructions from a remote controller for the ~~streaming transfer~~ of the ~~analog electrical data~~converted portion of the digital media file to the ~~audio-conventional media~~ playback device.

40. (Currently Amended) The ~~audio-converter~~ device of claim ~~33-70~~, further comprising wherein the ~~audio-converter device is a portable electronic device including a local area network adapter~~.

41. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:
~~an audio~~a media playback device; and
~~a personal computer to obtain digital audio data, to process the digital audio data, and to stream the processed data to the audio playback device~~converter device communicatively coupled to the media playback device, the converter device comprising:
a local area network port to receive portions of a digital media file stored on a local server;
a volatile memory buffer to store the portions of the digital media file;
a microprocessor to convert a portion of the digital media file stored in the volatile memory buffer into a format usable by the media playback system; and
firmware to control the transfer of the portions of the digital media file into the volatile memory buffer to avoid interruption of media playback.

42. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~28-41~~, further comprising a remote controller to send instructions to cause the ~~personal computer~~converter device to stream the processed data to the ~~audio-media~~ playback device.

43. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 41, wherein the ~~personal computer~~converter device decompresses the digital ~~audio data~~media file and converts the decompressed data ~~file~~ into analog electrical data.

44. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 41, further comprising a portable electronic device to send instructions to cause the ~~personal computer~~converter device to stream

transfer the processed data converted portion of the digital media file to the audio-media playback
device.

45. (Original) The system of claim 44 wherein the portable electronic device is a personal digital assistant.

46. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 41, wherein the processed data converted portion of the digital media file is streamed from the computer converter device via a wireless transfer protocol.

47. (Original) The system of claim 46 wherein the wireless transfer protocol is IEEE 802.11b.

48. (Previously presented) The system of claim 41, further comprising a portable electronic device including a local area network adapter.

49. (Original) The system of claim 48 wherein the portable electronic device is a personal digital assistant.

50. (New) A converter device for receiving and converting a digital media stream from a server, the converter device comprising:

a port to communicate with the server via a local area network;

a user interface control device; and

one or more non-volatile flash memories to store converter control firmware operable to cause the port to start receiving the digital media stream from the server in response to activation of the user interface control device.

51. (New) The converter device of claim 50, wherein the user interface control device includes a button integral to a housing of the converter device.

52. (New) The converter device of claim 50, wherein the user interface control device comprises an infra red (IR) remote control.

53. (New) The converter device of claim 50, further comprising a buffer memory to store the digital media stream received.

54. (New) A method for playing back a digital media file stored on a server at a media playback system, the method comprising:

receiving portions of the digital media file in successive transfers from the server via a local area network into a converter device in response to user activation of a user interface control device;

converting the portions of the digital media file into media signals; and

outputting the media signals via a media signal output port to a media playback system to provide a continuous media program.

55. (New) The method of claim 54, further comprising storing the portions of the digital media file received in a buffer memory in the converter device.

56. (New) The method of claim 55, wherein converting the portions of the digital media file comprises converting the portions of the digital media file from a computer storable format into a media playback format.

57. (New) The method of claim 54, wherein the media signals are in a media playback format.

58. (New) A computing system for receiving and converting a digital media stream from a server, the computing system comprising:

a computer to convert the digital media stream from a computer storable format into a playback device playable format;

a first port to receive the digital media stream in the computer storable format from a digital media server via a local area network; and

a second port to send the digital media stream in the playback device playable format to a media playback system.

59. (New) The computing system of claim 58, wherein the digital media stream in the playback device playable format includes one or more analog signals.

60. (New) The computing system of claim 58, wherein the digital media stream in the playback device playable format includes one or more uncompressed digital signals.

61. (New) A method to play back digital media, the method comprising:

receiving a portion of a digital media file stored on a server via a local area network into volatile memory in a client converter device;

converting the portion of the digital media file in the volatile memory to a format usable by a conventional media playback system; and

receiving a subsequent portion of the digital media file into the volatile memory via the local area network, wherein converting the portion of the digital media file and receiving the subsequent portion of the digital media file occurs substantially simultaneously.

62. (New) The method of claim 61, further comprising:

detecting an activation of a button on the client converter device to start playback.

63. (New) The method of claim 61, further comprising:

establishing a communicative network connection between the client converter device and the conventional media playback system;

communicatively coupling the client converter device to the server via the local area network;

enabling user navigation through a digital media database stored on the server at the client converter device via the local area network;

selecting the digital media file for playback in response to user instruction; and

streaming the digital media file to the client converter device in response to user instruction.

64. (New) The method of claim 63, wherein the client converter device is operable to perform the converting of the digital media file while the client converter device remains communicatively coupled to the server via the local area network.

65. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the digital media file comprises an audio file and the converted format usable by the conventional media playback system is an analog line level audio signal format.

66. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the digital media file comprises an audio file and the converted format usable by the conventional media playback system is an uncompressed digital audio bitstream format.

67. (New) A machine-readable storage medium tangibly embodying a sequence of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method, the method comprising:

receiving a portion of a digital media file stored on a server via a local area network into volatile memory in a client converter device;

converting the portion of the digital media file in the volatile memory to a format usable by a conventional media playback system; and

receiving a subsequent portion of the digital media file into the volatile memory via the local area network, wherein converting the portion of the digital media file and receiving the subsequent portion of the digital media file occurs substantially simultaneously.

68. (New) A converter device to playback digital media, the converter device comprising:

a local area network port to receive portions of a digital media file stored on a local server;

a volatile memory buffer to store the portions of the digital media file;

a microprocessor to convert a portion of the digital media file stored in the volatile memory buffer into a format usable by a conventional media playback system; and

firmware to control the transfer of the portions of the digital media file into the volatile memory buffer such that there is no interruption of media playback.

69. (New) The converter device of claim 68, wherein the control firmware is operable to control the transfer of the portions of the digital media file into the volatile memory buffer while the microprocessor is converting portions of the digital media file to avoid interruption of media playback.

70. (New) The converter device of claim 68, further comprising:

a user interface to allow a user to navigate through a hierarchical presentation of data associated with the digital media file.